

# Longacre's Ledger

*The Journal of The Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors' Society*

Volume 19.3, Issue #77

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December 2009



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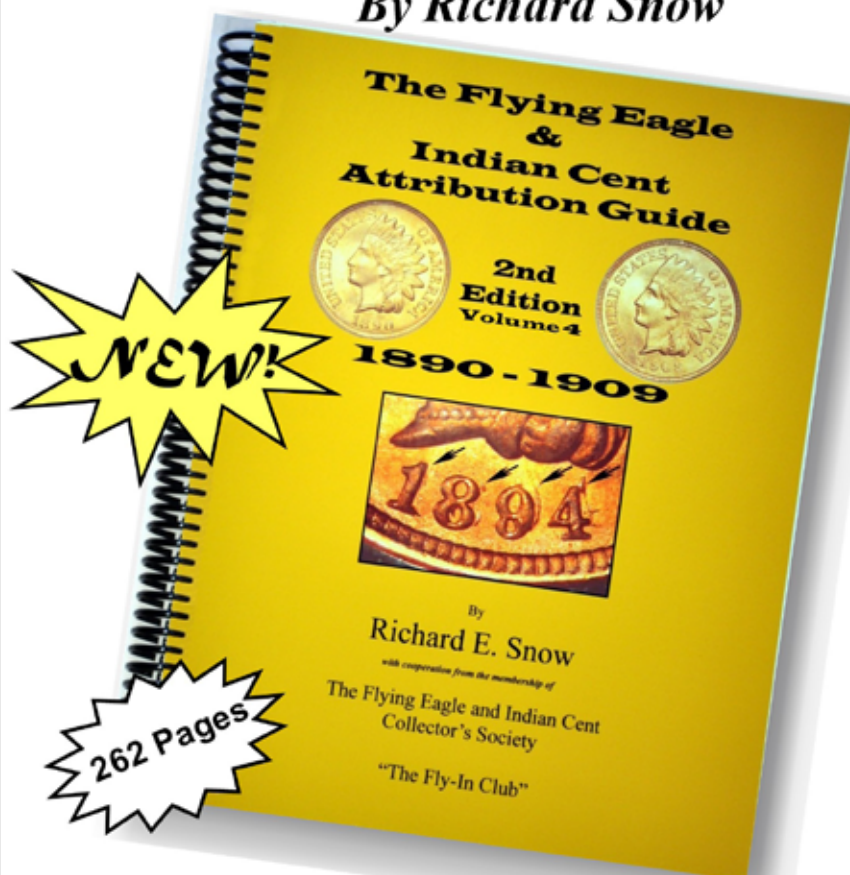


***These are a Few of  
My Favorite Things  
By Charmy Harker  
pg. 26***

# Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Attribution Guide

## Volume 4 1890-1909

By Richard Snow



**This is the only complete reference for Flying Eagle and Indian Cent varieties. It is not just a variety list - The economic history of the period and its relationship to the cent is detailed in a year-by-year analysis. 262 pages. Spiral binding.**

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# The Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors' Society

Our mission is to gather and disseminate information related to  
James B. Longacre (1794-1869), with emphasis on his work as  
Chief Engraver of the Mint (1844 -1869) with a primary focus on his  
Flying Eagle and Indian Cent coinage.

*Founded 1991*

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Please help the editor in updating any errors or changes. If you would like to become a state representative (there can be more than one per state), please contact the editor.

### On the cover...

*Indian cents struck in gold are the top errors in numismatics. Three examples dated 1900 are known. A 1906 recently sold for \$276,000. Now this 1905 has just been consigned to the 2010 FUN Auction held by Heritage Auctions. Mark Borchardt's catalog description is included here.*

*-Image by Heritage Auctions*

Special thanks to Heritage Auctions for printing this issue of Longacre's Ledger

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# Longacre's Ledger

2009 Vol. 19.3 Issue #77

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## Submission guidelines

If you have a substantive article you would like to contribute, please follow these guidelines:

- ✓ If you have internet access, you can send text to the editor's e-mail address below. Please send images in separate files.
- ✓ You may also send files and images on a CD-W disk or other storage device to the editor's address below. Storage devices will be returned upon request.
- ✓ Images of materials can be made by the editor for use in the Journal. Please include the necessary return postage with the submission.
- ✓ Please feel free to contact the editor if you have any questions.

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## Submission deadlines

Please submit all articles, letters, columns, press releases, advertisements no later than the following dates to assure inclusion:

Issue	Deadline	Show issue
#78 2010 Vol. 20.1	.....April 1, 2009	.....CSNS 2010
#79 2010 Vol. 20.2	.....August 1, 2010	.....ANA 2010
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# Indian Sense

## The President's Letter

By Chris Pilliod

*Preface.... This is my 35th President's report and I promise you it will be my one and only letter that has very little numismatic value. The market is quiet anyways, right? So if you are looking for coin discussions, you better skip to the articles now! Anyways, the bulk of my October was spent at our steel division in India. While there I spent most evenings typing business-related notes, and then cultural notes as well (since I never figured out how to play cricket). I sent on my cultural notes to a few friends who universally enjoyed them and several asked for a daily dose, which I never had time for. However, I did retrieve all the various emails and anecdotes from the trip and pasted all of them together herein... hope you enjoy as much as they did.*



### Getting there is half the fun.

After what seemed like an endless flight into Mumbai, the trip was finally, mercilessly over; but as the plane pulled into the gate the jet way got stuck about 2 feet from the exit doors. I watched as a few locals tried pushing it to no avail. "Great God", I thought; I was so damned tired of sitting on that plane I told the stewardess to open the door and just let me jump over. They finally got it, but when I walked out into that Mumbai air they just had a late monsoon rain and it was like a midnight sauna. 95F at 1 a.m.

The drive from Mumbai to Pune is a choking 80 mile stretch that would leave Dante speechless and even at 2 a.m. it was loaded with heavy truck traffic that left a dusty, smoggy scene. This guy spent 3 hours swerving in between all the trucks fighting up this big mountain. What a scene. His name was Mr. Pawar, just a zephyr of a man, and spoke no English. About halfway along the trip he kept he kept saying "tee". He then pulled over to what I assume was a rest stop so I thought he meant "pee". But he indeed meant "tea", a big thing here. He drank a small cup of hot tea while I milled around the dusty godforsaken place, a lot of barefooted truck drivers-- Tijuana on a tough day. Finally got to my room... 32 hours after I left Reading.

There's an inescapable odor from all the pollution-- even in the hotel room. Just a bad smell everywhere. Part of life here. But the inconvenience is more than compensated for by the Indian people, perhaps the most gracious, genuine and good-natured people I have ever encountered... no one ever seems to get ruffled. The first night I met at dinner a group of four recently graduated college kids-- three guys and a girlfriend of one of theirs. They were very pleasant and we made plans to get back together.

### They told me about India.

A few monsoon seasons ago Mumbai got 36 inches of rain in one day, great Lord... 3 feet of water in one day! In fact they said all of it fell in just 12 hours-- I didn't think that was even physically possible. Meanwhile, about 300 kliks (Kilometers) east of here summer temperatures can often reach 120F days and weeks at a time. I got a taste of it even in early October as one of the first nights there we worked late in the Melt Shop on teeming some 410 stainless. I slipped the heat for a while as I was so tired I actually sat down and fell asleep in the thundering Arc furnace pulpit for about 10 minutes. But what miserable work that place must be in May during the hot season when temperature in the Arc Shop hits 60C-- imagine working 12 hour days in 140F heat. The night I was there it was very "cool" by their standards,

maybe 110F in the shop and was tolerable for the three hours I was there.

The last few days the remnants of a tropical cyclone that did heavy damage to the south of the country cooled temperatures down to normal levels here. Many lives and homes were lost down there and the situation is far from over... India must be like a modern-day walk through the Book of Revelations.

On Sunday we took a breather from the plant and went on a tour of Pune sights. If you are looking for majesty on your next vacation this place can be safely crossed from your list. Just as we commenced the journey from the hotel a late-season monsoon swept through and the first couple hours I sat and rattled around in the back of a little restored Yugo-type car as my engineering contretemp from the plant barked out directions to the driver in Hinde.

Earlier in the week I inquired if Pune had slums like one sees in Mumbai, especially made famous in the movie "Slumdog Millionaire". So we embarked on a tortured route to some slums. At least in Pune the slums are small and scattered throughout the city. But they are indeed quite a sight of depravity, little tiny shacks with mud paths leading to an infested creek where the residence take their water. On one corner of the "village" as they call them there is a steeped pile of pure pestilence--trash heaped high burning a foul odor.

By 5:00 p.m. I was a tired man, and trudged up into my room for a nap before dinner. Sunday evening is a big night out in India and I had thought of buying a new watch for myself, so I headed to a "Titan" store a block from the motel on Mahatma Gandhi Boulevard. As I walked down the sidewalk a young boy yelled for my attention and ran up to me with a small toy airplane in his hand.

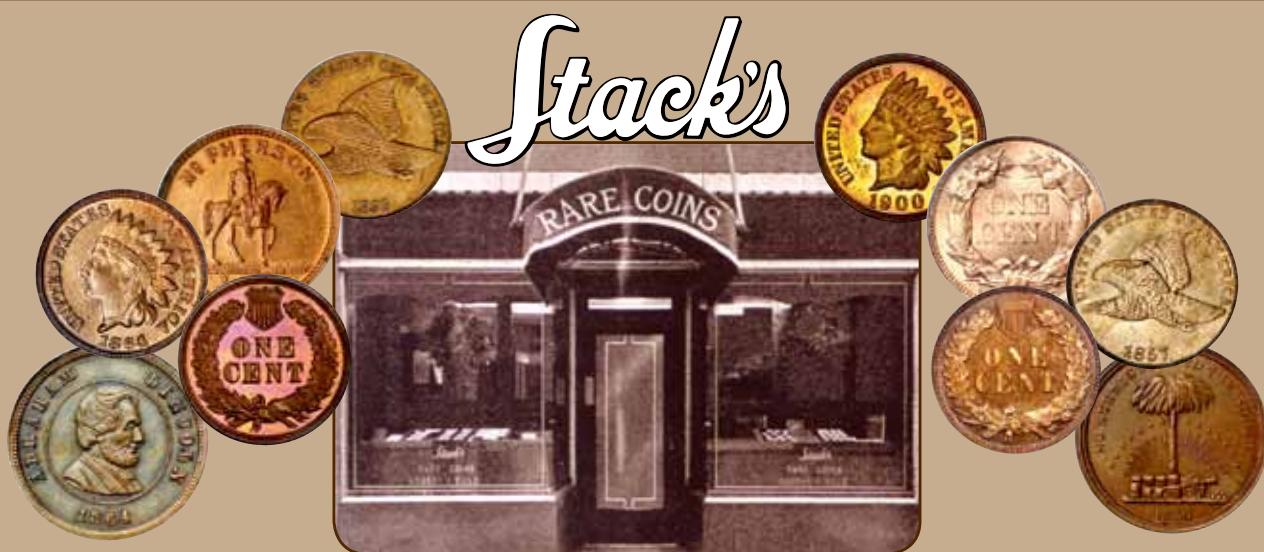
"200 rupees, special for you," he pitched. "No, thanks," I replied, "my boys already have some."

"No, sir, for you, very special... 150 rupees," he came back.

"I'm sorry," I said, "I'm going into this shop to look at watches," and I headed up the steps.

Titan is an Indian manufacturer of watches and runs the gamut from low-end Timex style models to high-end expensive pieces, so it took me some time to browse the store's offerings. After finally giving up with the thought of returning later, I headed out into a now dark evening. And as I hopped off the last step I dang near trampled the boy with the plane in his hand waiting for me.





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"You been here all this time?" I asked in surprise.

"Yes, sir... I now have permission with very, very special price... 100 rupees. My cost."

"No, I'm sorry, don't need a plane." But this kid wouldn't give up and just kept following me down the sidewalk. "What you pay?" he asked.

"Not interested," I muttered. "No, sir, what you pay?" he insisted.

Finally exasperated I did some quick math and said, "OK, 50 rupees I'll pay." Now this kid is going to have a career in corporate America because in what must be one of the most curious accounting maneuvers I have ever encountered he replied, "OK, sir, c'mon, I lose money to sell one for 50 rupees, but I make money to sell two for 100 rupees. Take two for 100 rupees."

When I busted out laughing shaking my head he said, "OK, one for 50 rupees." I pulled out a 50-rupee note and headed off thinking that I'd rather deal with a dozen seasoned Diamond Merchants than one 10-year old Indian kid.

Unfortunately the dealings weren't over. There were several interesting shops in a modern-looking mall a couple blocks away which I wanted to visit. Along the way I was offered a box labeled "Surprise Inside" for 25 rupees. I was indeed surprised... a couple of pieces of unwrapped rock candy stared at me when I opened it. "And I'm in the country with the highest incidence of swine flu," I thought.

Then another 100 feet up the sidewalk it was a man with a map of India which started out at 300 rupees, and I actually thought I could use this. The young lady with the gentlemen at the restaurant mentioned she was from Goa; and seemed taken aback that I had never heard of Goa. So I was pretty proud when I got him down to 100 rupees. When I pulled out some notes from my pocket, a 100-note as well as two tens he stared at them and quickly blurted out I needed to give him the 20-rupees as a tip since I was "tough to work with". So the map was really 120-rupees. I hadn't even gotten to the shopping mall when I had to turn around and head back to my room to drop off everything I had bought.

When the doorman saw me a smile came over his face. It was a smile of "I've seen this before". "How'd I do?" I queried showing him my loot. "You should have paid 20 rupees for the plane, 50 rupees for the map, and here," he continued as he reached into his pocket, "here's some good candy. Next time take me with you." The next encounter was the grand finale I guess...

On the way back out of the hotel I had a grand scheme in mind. I'd hustle down the sidewalks pretending to be talking business to the mill on my cellphone... I even yelled a few times "Don't you clowns know how to do anything???" (even though I wasn't exactly sure there are even any clowns in India). But this didn't seem to inhibit another young Indian kid with a plastic bag containing a cloth and a tin of black shoe polish. "Shine your shoes, sir... 50 rupees. Special for you, 50 rupees."

I yelled into my cellphone "Gotta go" knowing I was gonna win this one. I had just purchased a new pair of K-Swiss tennis shoes for the trip and this was the first day I had worn them. I informed the youngster of such and turned towards the mall.

"Polish your shoes, sir, 50 rupees," he said in a louder voice. By now I was getting a bit frustrated, "my shoes are white and you want to use black shoe polish, are you serious?"

"OK, sir, I lost my wood box for shining shoes... only have plastic bag. So business is bad. Customers want wood box for their feet, not plastic bag. Wood box is 250 rupees. Please help me." "Good Lord," I sighed. By now I just wanted to get into the mall so I quickly handed him over 50 rupees, figuring I'd just mentally add this to the price of the map... which I was still happy with at 170 rupees. My coin business acumen has carried over to real-life, so if I make a bad deal on one coin, I simply write it off against a good deal I made on another coin. It was quite a bit of effort to browse a mall and buy nothing, but I did get a chance to indulge in McDonald's, which chased some of the homesickness away... even though it was just a Fish Filet.

### Holy Cow

Traffic in India is in a class all by itself. Instead of rules of the road, really there are just a few general guidelines. Bikes, mopeds, little motorcycles, cars, 3-wheeled motorized rickshaws, all congested on beat-up 2-lane roads. Drivers maneuvering in a constant cacophony of horn-blowing, jippin'... all for the sake of gaining a few seconds on the way to their destination. Consider it a day on the Dodge'em cars at Hershey Park. About halfway on the 20-minute journey to the plant is a railroad track, and even without a train passing through it is a daily bottleneck. One morning as we were stalled in a tangled mess about 30 rows back, a young girl noticed me and came over and performed a little delicate dance, and ended by executing a precise pirohuette and flip while leaving just a sliver of light between herself and the other vehicles. "Wow", I thought, "that's dang impressive", and I gave a little clap and a wave goodbye. Only she wasn't heading off. She charged back to the car and said, "You like?"

"Yes indeed," I praised her.

"30 rupees, please, sir." Good Lord, I thought. But after lavishing praise on her, I felt obliged and reached for my money clip to hand over the bills. Mentally I just added it to the cost of the map, which was now up to 200 rupees, a bit more uncomfortable but still OK; hey when do you get 8000 miles from home? And off to work we went.



***While in India we produced the largest ingot in the 19-year history of their ESR Shop. This ingot weighed 34,000 pounds and will be used in a Power Generation Plant in India to supply electricity for their growing demand.***





Indian steelmakers, like none others I have encountered, are extremely interested and intrigued by what they consider to be an American expert's opinion. Case in point... for some reason they keep the bathroom locked (more about this bathroom later) and when you need to go they send an escort to take you. One day this young Indian worker they had dispatched to escort me to the bathroom said in broken English, "the mens, they really like you here... they all have smile. They stay over with no pay to listen to you talks. They want to learn what you say."

There's an art to pronouncing Hinde words, and they laugh because I can't come close to pronouncing their Indian names, so I just gave up and came up with a nickname for them. One day a young operator sat me down and pulled out a file. In it were a summary of all the project work he had completed, including 6 or 7 impressively high-level Kaizzan blitzes. "That's very good," I stated in true admiration. So I started calling him Einstein. "You know," I told him, "there are 1.2 billion Indians, many Pawars and many, many Patels, but only one Indian named Einstein."



*I take a break with some of the guys from the floor... from left to right—Me, "Big Dog", "Einstein", and "Junior".*

They laughed and laughed. Indians tend to be relatively slight in frame, but another of the young operators was surprisingly husky, like a linebacker, so I called him Big Dog. When Larry, another fellow engineer from Reading joined me mid-trip to help out with some control system issues, Big Dog became Big Dog #2, as Larry is an even more impressive sight. A third operator exhibits a paler complexion than most Indians, so he became "Carlos". Another young kid's father worked at the plant, so instead of Arvind Sahasrabudhe we simply called him "Junior"... and so on and so on. The Indians love to laugh I found out, and when I share a funny anecdote with them, they often ask me to repeat the story later on.

#### **The Bathroom.**

I mentioned the bathroom. They are big on keeping everything locked up over here; while serious crime is extremely low, the residents I believe are more concerned about theft. Even the bathrooms are kept locked up, even though I'm not sure what's inside to steal... and probably more of a deterrent is the overpowering odor; I doubt anyone could last long enough inside to unbolt anything.

And at least in this area the natives are also a bit more superstitious than we. One night just before we left for the hotel I was being escorted to the bathroom when I noticed we were off-track. "This is a different bathroom," I mentioned. "Yes," the guide said, "a couple of years ago a worker went at dark into the other bathroom and smelled someone cooking Indian food with a heavy curry scent in the air. He looked around, and into each stall, but no one was inside the bathroom. Yet the smell was pungent of fresh cooking so there was no doubt of the cooking. So at night the ghosts occupy that bathroom and we use this other one."

"Actually, I don't mind the ghosts if it means a shorter walk... this is quite a hike," I replied.

"No sir. Not possible. We are in strict responsibility for your safety while you are here." OK, Whatever.

We were still stinging from a hot original Indian dining experience the night before, so Larry and I headed over to the mall to seek out a Pizza Hut I had observed. Larry's a bit more serious than myself, "Look," he said, "cheese is listed under "Extra Toppings". In India you must start out with dough only and go from there. "I'll just have the wings."

Man, he tore into those things like a man that had been adrift for four days. After polishing off the first serving he ordered up another. And then while waiting on the second serving he lost patience and began licking his fingers.

"You sure you want to lick your fingers over here?" I queried him with a smile on my face.

"Damn," he replied, "I wasn't thinking. Do you think I'm screwed?"

The route over to Pizza Hut is on Mahatma Ghandi Boulevard where I was accosted by another young Indian boy selling miniature flashlights. "Lookee, very bright!" he displayed. "Hmmm," I thought... the second night I was in the plant I was crawling around inside some ingot molds and had to borrow a flashlight. All they could cobble up was a cell phone which emitted a faint blue light that made investigation difficult. So I didn't even haggle as 20 rupees for a flashlight will be money well spent... hell the batteries alone must be worth that, and I stuck the thing in my pocket.

I must be prophetic because the very next night they asked me to give my opinion on the condition of another drag of molds, as we were having considerable quality issues in the steel coming from them. So I proudly reached into my pocket and showed off the new tool I had just acquired the night before, "much better than you're your cell phone," I grinned as I crawled inside.

Less than a couple of minutes into the investigation of the first of twelve molds, my Indian counterparts watched as my hand slowly came out of the mold. "What's the problem, Mr. Chris???"

"My flashlight died... can I borrow your cell phone?"

#### **Just bein' "different".**

Carpenter sends through the interoffice-mail to all overseas traveling employees a large packet containing detailed information on overseas etiquette and local customs. The usual tripe, ya know... "You should be respectful of their ways; their ways are not wrong, they are simply different", "travel in twosomes", "stay hydrated with bottled water" and so on.



Late one evening around the middle of the trip I once again headed out on the streets for dinner when a strong tap on my shoulder from behind stopped me in my tracks. “Good Lord” I muttered as I turned around, “it’s the shoe boy”. He was anxious to open up a dialogue but I quickly raised my hand to cut him short, “you didn’t get your wooden box and you need more rupees,” I summarized as I reached in my pocket, grabbed my money clip, handed him a 20 rupee note and quickly turned around to head off again. But this time he wasn’t satisfied, “Wooden box is 250 rupees, sir! Sir, 250 rupees! My mamma be happy with my new box, sir!!!” By now I was getting agitated so I picked up my pace. But he continued to trot behind me beckoning for more cash and soon I found myself in an all-out sprint down the sidewalk. Now the sidewalks of India are narrow and heavily trafficked by pedestrians, not to mention sleeping dogs and during the night resting people as well. As I was scampering in-between passer-bys, I suddenly broke through a gaggle and instantaneously before me lay a large figure barely a foot from a building laying supine lengthwise along the walkway. I didn’t have time to hit the brakes in front of an elderly lady sleeping soundly on a pile of newspapers and she was too long of a jump to hurdle; so I found myself at full speed straddling her body deftly, with my left foot barely fitting in between the building’s wall and her body. And straddling, I might proudly add, successfully; as she didn’t budge from her sleep. Once the sprint was over, I reflected upon the previous two minutes and found comfort in the words of Carpenter’s overseas culture bulletin... running a windsprint to get out of buying an Indian kid a wooden shoe box followed by a full-speed straddle over a 70-year old Hinde woman sleeping in a chartreuse sari is not wrong—rather it is, I agreed, different...very different. Actually, I reckoned, had I been a rookie halfback trying out for the Steelers it might even be considered a world-class exhibition.



*Larry and I observe the melting process in real time as a group of their engineers look on.*

### **The National Railway of India.**

Halfway between the plant and our hotel is a set of dusty railroad tracks, and running alongside of it is a long alley of slums packed with residents doing laundry or selling goods. This must be the place where Heisenberg was enlightened with his Nobel-prize winning theory of chaos and uncertainty in the world because it is here when a train approaches and the gate draws down that men in cars, or on bikes, motorcycles, rickshaws, pedestrians, goats and you name it all pile up in front of the gate—in India you don’t see as many women drivers. The concern for the unindoctrinated is the fact that they also spill over to the oncoming lane as well. Even both sidewalks get taken over. One time I counted 14 vehicles straddled side-by-side in front of the gate, with about 50 rows just like that behind them. We seemed to always be crushed in the middle-- not a remedy for the claustrophobic. The biggest problem is that it is not a well-choreographed tango... the same thing is going on over on the opposite side as well. While I was there I was treated to the scene at least six times, the “Battle of Testosterone” I called it. Then the gates come up and a free-for-all ensues... dodging and weaving, honking and yellin’, carryin’ on; the worst fishing line tangle you’ve ever laid eyes on... in India you never say you’ve seen it all.

The trains are nonstop through the junction and one night we worked late and as we approached the tracks at 1 a.m. the gates came down. Traffic was lighter and this time we got treated to a front-row seat for the spectacle. But on this occasion it was a little bit different—the gates didn’t ascend after the train’s passing. We waited for a while and soon noticed a big diesel engine chugging down the eastbound lane. Except he was coming in for a hookup and stopped right in front of the gate and just sat there. And wouldn’t move and wouldn’t move. It was a warm night and the engineer had his window open and his head hung outside communicating with the worker on the tracks. I’m no expert in India culture, but after just five days there I was able to call the next scene before it in fact unfolded... at first it was just one, then another, and then it slowly built up to where everybody started honking at the engineer to get his train a crackin’. And the honking got louder and louder and then it rained in from the other side as well. After a minute or two I think the engineer had heard enough, so he reached over for the horn button and I swear to God he must have stood on that thing because for about 10 seconds all I can say is, it was noooo contest. He let up the horn to silence... no more honking. So here it is at 1 o’clock in the morning in the middle of India and I’m in the backseat of this little midget car rolling around, laughing my ass off. Up front Larry wasn’t so amused, “Glad you find it funny, Chris.”

In two weeks we had to cram as much knowledge and process control as we could. And while we won’t get there we have made some solid gains. But a lot of their issues seem to be systemic to the style of equipment they chose, of which I have already discussed. Apparently their chairman, a fiery man named Babba Kalyani, would like to talk to have a sit-down with me to discuss my thoughts and what is required to meet the needs of their customer-base.



They said Babba wants only “your most respected opinion, Mr. Chris”. So I am prepared to be honest, as he is a chairman of a multi-billion dollar Indian enterprise. As such I have been thinking mightily about a catchy opening line to grab his attention, and I think I have it:

“Now, Sir, you and Mr. Mittal are the two of the biggest names in Indian steelmaking so you should be very proud of what you have accomplished for yourself as well as the country of India... by the way, do you mind if I call you Babba Gump?”

About the middle of the trip my Indian engineer counterpart asked me what tool was most needed to make their process better? I was standing at the control monitor trying to make sense of what the melt was doing; I hung my head and turned to him slowly and quietly answered, “A bulldozer.” It’s a good thing they have a sense of humor, or I should say humour as India was a British colony, you know. If Babba asks if the technology is capable of meeting the customer requirements routinely, my reply will be, “with considerable work and effort it might be possible, but I think it is unlikely.” If he asks if investing in \$10Million of capital to install a furnace similar to a US-style furnace would achieve capability, my reply would be “you can go to the bank on that one.”

### **The Pune 500.**

About the last night Larry was here we worked late into the evening as we tried to get our arms around the electrode change logic. At about 7:30 in the evening two of the plant managers asked if Larry and I would like to grab dinner as the next electrode change wasn’t to occur an hour and a half. “We’ll go somewhere close” they decided. Except somewhere close had a railway crossing with a stalled train and about a half-a-mile of motorists which must have numbered in the thousands, so they did a quick U-turn and off we went flying around through all these side roads. Someplace quick took 25 minutes to get to. Now, the Indians are big on having “starters”, which we call appetizers, and one night we must have had 8 or 9 plates of starters going around. This night when the Manager of the plant wanted to know which starters we would like, I inquired to him that perhaps we should order entrees at the same time.

“No worry, Chris, plenty of time.” But there wouldn’t be plenty of time as the service wasn’t very speedy and after about 15 minutes without even the starters showing up I asked their engineer to call the plant and get an update on the electrode change time. “ummm, in just 45 minutes.”

“We better order dinner now,” I said, and the Plant manager, Hinge yelled “Express!!!” to the waiter who came running out. While Indian food is unique and of very intriguing quality they are not known for speed. Finally our appetizers came out and I again repeated we had to observe the changes we made during electrode said if we wanted to make it back in time we would have to get the entrees to go. But even that entailed a series of yelling and carryin’ on between the manager of the restaurant and Hinge, the only word I understood was “Express!, Express!!!”. Meanwhile, Larry and I waited in the car, but not before Larry asked me to sit up front—he didn’t want to be an eyewitness to what

was about to unfold, he’d seen enough on the way there. And it seemed like it took forever before we saw the two of them running down the steps of the restaurant with bags of food flopping around in their arms.

I was upfront and Larry in the back as Hinge sped off on the trip of a lifetime. Swerving through traffic, horn a blazin’, dodging bicyclists, and three-wheeled rickshaws, all in an effort to make Godspeed to the plant. When traffic got thick, we simply off-roaded it a few times. One spot I was especially concerned while we flying alongside a sidewalk... all of a sudden we came up on a very tall sewer cover, it looked to be a good 18” off the road. Damn, he’s gonna tear the front axle off; how he avoided it, I dunno. But he did. Twice we almost hit a dog, and once a bicyclist, or maybe it was a motorcycle, we were going too fast to discern. And lastly, I hope it is also the closest I ever come to running over a steer, not a rarity on the roads over here.

### **Leaving.**

After much fanfare and pomp and many goodbyes and pictures, I was finally off—for a trip from hell for a 1 a.m. flight to JFK. It’s about 80 miles from Pune to Mumbai, but can you imagine a smoggy drive of almost 6 hours??? It’s just crazy, three hours to drive through Mumbai, people everywhere, I mean everywhere, with everything exacerbated from the local Diwali Holiday in a couple days. But this nice young man did all he could to keep moving, and I could tell he was hellbent on getting me there. He spoke a very little amount of English, and mentioned he had an 11-month old daughter that he was excited about her first birthday party. We whiled away the time talking about Indians’ fascination with “Tom and Jerry”, the cartoon. Every kid seems to watch it, even some adults. The driver also confided he still watches it whenever he gets a chance. One night I asked my waiter if he had ever heard of it, “Yessir, tonight 11:30 p.m. on Cartoon Network.”



*I got a real kick out of their Scrap Truck drivers—they all painted and decorated their trucks. It was like a competition. You’d see them out washing their trucks, something you’ll never observe at a US steel mill.*

On the way to the airport I finally had a breather from the constant workload we were under. So I thought about what kind of takeaways I had learned from the experience. What a great people the Indians are. The respect shown me was a predominant theme through the week. I was sure glad I brought two large bars of Irish Spring—I really looked forward to a shower after a hot 12 to 14 hour day at the mill. I threw 5 packs of Beemans' chewing gum in my briefcase; these turned out great after a hot Indian meal. I never saw any Oreo cookies over there, glad I stuffed a few packs from the JFK Air France Courtesy Suite (one benefit of flying Business Class). The cigars I picked up in India and smoked during work were very relaxing. I couldn't believe how many times we had to do conversions—metric to standard; kilograms to pounds, litres per minute to gallons per minute, Centigrade to Fahrenheit and on and on. I ended up liking metric better. I miss cold cereal, and can't wait for a Big Mac either. I also missed the fruits, don't think I had a fruit or salad the whole while. But I never got sick one time, even though when I was packing I noticed almost all the Malarone pills were still in my medicine bag—sure hope I didn't get bitten by a mosquito, at least a female mosquito. While I was tired all the time and was too busy to get very homesick, the worst part of the stay for me was not being able to get out in the countryside, just dense city everywhere.

The roads reminded me mostly of the cartpaths at the Manor Golf Course, but there were a few rare stretches of high quality surfaces. Former Prime Minister of India Vasanjay once noted that "our roads don't have some potholes, our potholes have some roads". And there are no "Rules of the Road" over here, more like general guidelines—"if you don't mind try to stay off the sidewalks" that kind of thing, and the nice thing is apparently once you honk your horn this absolves you even from these few loose guidelines. Roads are a hallucinatory parade of cars, smog, buildings, shantys, shops... I felt a bit trapped—Mumbai would be the last city I'd want to revisit.

While they may be dainty in size, this attribute does not apparently translate into how some Indian women apply their perfumes. I swear some must use a 40mm brush to slap it on when preparing for the day, and on several occasions during the week I thought I might pass out. Pakistan is a sore subject for all Indians—they don't understand how the US can be friends with both India and Pakistan.


The driver's pay and tip had already been taken care of by the plant, but I still had about 480 rupees in my pocket with nothing to use them for, and the poor guy busted his butt to get me to Mumbai on time and then had to turn right around and drive through that mess to get back to Pune that night. So I handed him over what money I had, thanked him heartily, turned and trudged into the Mumbai Airport with my 700-rupee Map of India. ●

## Letter to the Editor:

Thank you for publishing that awesome article about the Flying Eagle collection that was exhibited at ANA. I have been looking forward to this show for quite some time, especially since it was in driving distance from San Diego. Due to other commitments, I was only able to attend on Sunday, but having seen the pictures of this collection, there was no way I was not going to go.

We arrived early Sunday and due to some misinformation started on the wrong side of the convention hall. By the time I worked around to the opposite wall, much of the Smithsonian exhibit had been packed up and when I arrived at the PCGS booth, so had the Leningrad Dutch Collection! My disappointment must have been very obvious! The lady I spoke to said, "Have a seat" and proceeded to remove the collection from the cabinet behind her. I was treated to a private showing of this marvelous collection as coin after coin was handed to me! I thanked her profusely several times and examined coins I could not even imagine ever owning. Thank you PCGS. Thank you ANA. Thank you Rick!

Marty Katz



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## Breathtaking 1905 Gold Indian Cent

By Mark Borckardt



### New discovery!

#### 1905 Indian Cent struck on a Quarter Eagle Planchet!

Graded MS64 by PCGS. Weight: 64.5 grains, the standard weight of a quarter eagle. Exactly five Indian cents are known on gold planchets, according to information available to us. Among them are three dated 1900, this piece dated 1905, and an example dated 1906. The Judd pattern reference lists 1900 and 1907 gold cents in the section on mint errors. However, Andrew W. Pollock, III, listed the 1900 gold Indian cents as P-1990 in the regular pattern section of his reference. Pollock writes: "Listed in Judd as a mint error, but it is difficult to imagine that a Mint employee would be so careless as to feed gold planchets into a coinage press fitted with one-cent piece dies." Pollock suggests that these pieces may have been deliberately struck for one or more collectors. The following is a census of gold Indian cents.<sup>1</sup>

**1900 MS65 PCGS.** Col. E.H.R. Green; B.G. Johnson; John Beck (Abner Kreisberg Corporation, 1/1975), lot 609; Mike Byers; Auction '89 (Superior, 7/1989), lot 856; Bowers and Merena (8/1991), lot 4103; recently PCGS authenticated as a 1900 Indian cent struck on a gold \$2.50 planchet, and graded MS65. The 1991 ANA catalog gives a weight of 65.8 grains, 1.3 grains too much for a quarter eagle planchet.

**1900 AU55.** Heritage (8/1993), lot 8000. The 1993 ANA catalog gives a weight of 4.35 grams (67.12 grains), 2.62 grains too much for a quarter eagle planchet.

**1900.** Michael Hodder reported in a May 14, 1996 letter to Q. David Bowers that he had personally seen three different pieces, all with weights in the range of 65.8 to 67.1 grains. See Bowers' *A Buyer's and Enthusiast's Guide to Flying Eagle and Indian Cents*, p. 427.

<sup>1</sup> The census is compiled from a variety of sources, including [www.uspatterns.com](http://www.uspatterns.com), [www.minterrornews.com](http://www.minterrornews.com), Donald Taxay's 1976 Catalogue and Encyclopedia, Andrew Pollock's 1994 United States Patterns and Related Issues, the Judd reference, and selected auction catalogs. Conversations with Fred Weinberg and Richard Snow provided additional background.

**1905 MS64 PCGS.** Apparently unknown to the numismatic community prior to the current offering. Weight: 64.5 grains, the standard weight for a quarter eagle planchet.

**1906 AU58 NGC.** Stack's (6/2004), lot 4097; Stack's (9/2009), lot 4299. Weight: 64.4 grains, within the 0.25 grain tolerance for a quarter eagle planchet.

**1907.** Listed in the Judd pattern book, and in Donald Taxay's Catalogue and Encyclopedia [of] U.S. Coins. The 1907 gold Indian cent is currently unlocated.

One example dated 1900 is also known in silver, from the identical dies as the 1900 gold Indian cents, suggesting they were all made at or near the same time. Rick Snow writes in *A Guide Book of Flying Eagle and Indian Head Cents* that "both the silver and gold examples are struck from the same dies, with light roughness on the reverse die, probably from die rust." That all three 1900 pieces have higher weights suggests that they were specially made, perhaps without the knowledge of Mint officials. Fred Weinberg explained to this cataloger that "the weights vary because in all probability, they were on planchets that might not have been filed down to the proper weight spread." Hand adjusting of individual gold planchets continued in the Mint until circa 1910. Those three pieces are almost certainly fancy pieces made for collectors, while the 1905 and 1906 examples, on correct weight planchets, are more likely pieces truly made in error, and substantially more important as such.

This example is slightly off-center toward 9 o'clock, the tops of UNITED STATES off the planchet. The strike is weak at the date, feather tips, RICA, the outer parts of the wreath, and the ribbon bow. The weakness seems counter to expectations of the soft gold, but the diameter is at least a full millimeter less than an Indian cent, meaning that the metal flowed out and was insufficient to accept the design from the deepest recesses of the dies.

## ***1906 Gold Indian Cent Sells for \$276,000***



**1906 Indian Cent. Struck in Gold. AU-58 (NGC).**

Sold in Stack's Americana sale, (9/2009:4229) for \$276,000. The following is their description:

*18.3 mm (horizontal) X 18.1 mm (vertical). 1.1 mm to 1.2 mm thick. Plain Edge. Lovely olive gold fields join yellow gold lustre and coppery highlights in the protected areas. This specimen weighs 64.4 grains and was probably struck on a quarter eagle planchet, which should weigh 64.5 grains. The physical size of the planchet is also very similar to that of a quarter eagle (17.78 mm), the slightly larger diameter of this specimen accounted for by the spread during striking of the soft gold to fill the larger diameter collar (19.05 mm) of an Indian cent.*

The coin was purchased by Chicago Dealer/collector Nick Brown. As reported in *Coin World*, Mr. Brown said he plans on keeping the coin and did not buy it to resell. Brown related that he collects off-metal errors, mules, transitional strikes and double denomination coins. Bidding started at \$40,000 and it was not until bidding reached the \$160,000 level that he began bidding. Bidding commenced to \$240,000 when Mike Byers, the under-bidder lowered his paddle. Brown said he was prepared to go much higher. The total price including the 15% buyers fee is \$276,000, a new record for an Indian Cent.

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## ***Which Fly-In Club Logo do you like?***



*Recently, it was suggested that we need a logo for the Fly-In Club. A few suggestions were proposed and the ones above are the two best so far. Please register your vote, offer your suggestions or propose your own at the Fly-In Club Forum at*

**[www.fly-inclub.org](http://www.fly-inclub.org).**



## ***The Robert Lutz Error Collection - A date set of Indian Cent Errors***

The Robert Lutz collection of errors featured nearly a complete collection of errors for every date in the Indian Cent series. Here are a few highlights.



### **1857 Struck Off-Center**

It is struck on a Type 1 planchet (the edge was not raised on the planchet). As such, it didn't feed into the coining chamber.



### **1858 Small Letters Off-Center**

Flying Eagle errors are very difficult to find.



### **1860**

This one is broadstruck - struck outside the collar.



### **1861**

The coin is another broadstrike and is slightly off-center towards K-12. (K = Kolt position, similar to a clock face.)



### **1859 Capped Die**

Here is one of the top errors in existence! It is a super high-rimmed capped die. The obverse die stuck multiple times with this piece attached to the head of the die. Needless to say, it is well-struck. As a one-year type coin it is very important. Two examples are known,







**1862 Split Planchet after strike.**

1/2 a coin should be 1/2 the price, right! Well, not in numismatics. You get to pay more for less. The reverse is missing, having split after striking. If you can locate the missing half, you will have a a real winning combination.



**1864 Copper Nickel. Off Center.**

The coin is off-center 15% towards K-5.



**1863 Double struck, both Broadstruck**

The coin was struck twice, but both times it was out of the collar and expanded to about 21mm - the size of a nickel.



**1864 Bronze, No L. Off Center.**

A one-year type with a second strike 95% off-center at K-8.



**1864 With L Struck on copper-nickel planchet**

It is a 1864 With L struck on a copper nickel planchet. A few patterns are known, struck with the original 1864 With L Proof dies, but this is certainly a wrong-planchet error. There are three examples known and the others are MS-60 cleaned (Stacks 5/84:686) and VF (Stacks 2/76:211 as XF-40).



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#### 1865 Plain 5 Snow-14. Off-Center

The S14 is a very interesting variety with a circular lathe line through the feathers. It is struck 30% off-center error as well.



#### 1867 Lamination

There is a peeled-back lamination under Lady Liberty's ear on the obverse.



#### 1866 Double Struck

This piece is double-struck with the second strike at K-10. The second strike shows the AMER of AMERICA.



#### 1868 Double Struck

Double strike with the 2nd strike 80% off-center towards K-8.



Heritage Auctions

#### 1877 Copper Nickel

While the Philadelphia Mint struck no contract coinage for Venezuela in 1877, a leftover copper-nickel planchet from the previous year's production of one centavo coins somehow mixed in with the bronze blanks for cents and was struck. The result was this fascinating and distinctive specimen. (Heritage Auction FUN 1/10)







#### 1876 Double Struck

It is double-struck with the second strike at K-12 showing STAT of STATES.



#### 1881 Off-Center

Off-center 5% towards K-3.



#### 1879 Off-Center

Off-Center to K-3.



#### 1882 Triple struck - In Collar and Broadstruck

This piece is very dramatic with triple striking, once in the collar, once out of the collar. The date and legend are very dramatically doubled. On the reverse the wreath shows many spikes from the various impressions. This makes it look like a wreath of thorns, not Oak. The shield clearly shows the three strikes.



#### 1880 Reverse Brockage

The reverse brockage is very clearly imprinted with the obverse of another coin. The LIBERTY and the entire Indian head is visible. Curiously, only the 0 digit is visible. Perhaps the previous coin had strike-through debris in the 188 as well as the legend.



#### 1883 Double struck

The second strike is 80% off-center towards K-12 with NITED ST showing on the second strike.





### 1885 Struck through planchet lamination

The reverse shows an area where the coin was struck through a thin lamination. Most of the design shows through clearly, although blurred.



### 1886 Type 2 Off-center

The coin is struck 10% off center towards K-9.



### 1887 Off-center on a clipped planchet

The coin is struck off-center 5% at K-11 on a planchet that has a straight clip from K-9 to K-11.



### 1888 Off Center

Off-center 15% towards K-10.



### 1889 Double Strike

The second strike is 90% off center towards K-9 with the OF AM showing.



### 1890 Indent, Broadstruck and Light Planchet.

2.6 grams. Here is an amazing coin. It is broadstruck on a thin planchet. But it also had a second planchet struck onto it at the same time, creating an indent covering 40% of the obverse at K-1. This made the reverse strike up normally under the two planchets, but it is weak everywhere else (due to the thin planchet). It is actually a Mint State example!



### 1891 Off-Center

Off center to K-2 about 10%.







### 1892 Double Struck in Collar

The second (boldest) strike is about 5 deg. CW. The visual impression of this is fantastic. The feathers are more pointed and the wreath looks like thistle, instead of oak.



### 1893 Double Strike

The second strike is 20% off-center and shows the date. If the date is missing, the desirability drops.



### 1894/1894 Snow-1 Off Center

Not only is it the very popular repunched date, but it is off center 20% towards K-12 as well.



### 1895 Double Stuck -Both Off-Center.

Struck off-center 10% to K-6 leaving enough date visible to identify. It is then struck again 95% off-center at K-2 with the base of the date showing. This is a really cool error and is outstanding in that it shows two dates.



### 1896 Double Struck

Double struck with the second strike 90% off-center at K-11.





## ***Gentlemen.... I am now the club librarian.***

I have in my barn enough back issues of the Longacre's Ledger to heat my house next winter... and the one after that so...

### **ANNOUNCING the Ledger blowout sale.**

1st back issue is \$5 and each additional is \$2 post paid to all club members.

(The cost of the first one should cover shipping)

See the list below of issue that are available.

Also, we are building a lending library for club members, with books available for 30 days for the cost of shipping.

Larry Steve has donated a copy of his book "F.I.N.D.E.R.S Report: Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Varieties" and Chris Pilliod is donating a set of Rick's books. Any other donations or requests, as well as sources of books are appreciated. Many of these books can be hard to find and/or pricy, so help us out. PLEASE.

For more info, [salembene@hotmail.com](mailto:salembene@hotmail.com) or call me @ 443.299.6021 (h) or 443.799.1441 (C)

Thank You! Steven Salembene (Fly-In LM-39)

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Starting with Volume 15, we went to only 3 issues per year.

2005 Vol. 15. Issue #1.

2005 Vol. 15. Issue #2.

2005 Vol. 15. Issue #3.

2006 Vol. 16. Issue #1.

2006 Vol. 16. Issue #2.

2006 Vol. 16. Issue #3.

2007 Vol. 17. Issue #1.

2007 Vol. 17. Issue #2.

2007 Vol. 17. Issue #3.

2008 Vol. 18. Issue #1

After this, Heritage starts printing. All extras were given out as promotional copies.

If I dig out any of the missing issues, I will let you know.

I find the earlier issues to be more informative as this is when the heavy re-search was still occurring, but that is just one man's opinion.

#### **State Rep Robert Hall moves from Alaska to Arkansas**

Just a brief announcement; my wife and I are moving from Anchorage, Alaska to Bella Vista, Arkansas. After 34 years working as a civil engineer on Alaskan and north slope projects, it's time to retire and be closer to family. I'm certainly looking forward to being more involved with numismatics.

## **Fly-In Club FUN Meeting Orlando, Florida**

**Friday, January 8, 2010**

**See Rick Snow at the show for details.  
We may have a casual dinner meeting  
or a formal daytime presentation.**



**1897 Double Struck**

The second strike is 90% off-center at K-11 and shows the date fully.



**1901 Double Struck in Collar**

The second strike is 5 deg CCW.



**1898 Double Struck**

The second strike is 95% off-center at K-10 and shows the top of the U in UNITED.



**1902 Off-Center, Lamination**

Off-center 20% towards K-6 about 20%.  
There is a detached lamination on the reverse.



**1899 Off Center**

Off-center 10% towards K-1. The toning is mostly on the obverse.



**1903 Off-Center, Clipped planchet.**

Off center 80% towards K-12 with the date showing.



**1900 Double struck**

The second strike is 90% off-center at K-12 with the full date showing.



**1904 Double Struck**

The second strike is 95% off-center towards K-12 with the date showing.





### 1905 Split Planchet

This is a split after strike with about one-third of the coin still showing. At least the date shows. Find the other two-thirds and you win the prize!



### 1907 Double Struck

The second strike is 50% off center towards K-2. The date shows on both strikes.



### 1906 Off center

Struck 25% off center towards K-3.



### 1908 Double Struck

The second strike is 85% off-center towards K-12 with the date showing.



### 1908-S Double Struck in Collar

Slight rotation on the obverse. Less on the reverse. This shows that the obverse die, not the planchet, rotated slightly between strikes.

## ***SUBJECTIVITY IN COIN GRADING***

***By Charmy Harker***

In my opinion, grading coins accurately is one of the most important and valuable skills a coin collector can learn. Because grading is subjective, however, there are (strong) disagreements when it comes to grading coins, especially trying to grade from photographs or scans, which of course can be difficult to get an accurate grade since you can't turn the coin under the light to see all the flaws, toning, amount of luster, discoloration, rim issues, etc. I know a lot has been written about standards, opinions, and subjectivity in grading, but I thought I'd share some of my experiences and thoughts on learning to grade coins.

### **GRADING IS VERY SUBJECTIVE**

As has been said many times, grading is subjective, so it's difficult to create a tried and true standard since that involves using various individuals' personal opinions. Even the published guides have different ideas and criteria compared to each other, since they were written by humans using their own idea of what is important in assigning a grade.

And if you take grading practices from 20+ years ago, most collectors know that grading has changed quite a bit since then (meaning gotten loser). That's why coins in older third party grading (TPG) holders from the 1980's to early 1990's (PCGS "rattler" and "old green holders" and NGC "fattie" holders) garner higher prices since many times they can be recertified into holders with higher grades (several dealers actually make their living playing this "crack out" game).

Grading is never black and white - that's why no one has been able to successfully invent computerized grading - there are too many variables that are based more on an individual's own ideas, experience, practice, and/or training of what's attractive or what's important to them, knowing the difference between wear vs. weak strike, hairlines vs. die flow lines, or how that person interprets certain descriptive words and the percentage within those descriptions (>95% red = RD designation on copper or only >5% red = BN; or 20% rims remaining = VG, rather than 80% rims = F). How does a grader interpret or scientifically measure the quantity of color or the percentage of wear?

### **GRADING COINS**

So for me, I first learned to grade coins from an old time dealer who showed me Indian cents (since that was the series I was interested in) in various grades and taught me what the differences were among each grade, beginning with circulated coins (PO1 to AU58), then moving into uncirculated coins (MS60 to MS70), which for me was harder to learn since the differences between grades can be slight, as well as subjective. I'm basically a black and white type person, so learning to grade coins did not come easy to me.

### **Circulated Coins**

For circulated coins, grading is somewhat more scientific, but still has a great deal of subjectivity, particularly when you get into the higher circulated grades, but even with the lower grades like AG and G. The differences between these two grades can be slight, like how much of the date is visible or how strong is the outline of the portrait. For the date, does that mean 90% or 75% or 50% of the date must be visible? Again, that's where subjectivity comes in.

Also, some of the differences between VF20 and VF25 are so slight, same with VF30 and VF35, or AU55 and AU58. An AU55 coin might have less luster, a slightly heavier rub on the high points, maybe a couple more circulation marks than an AU58. For me, personally, when I call a coin an AU58 (I actually use pluses like AU+++), it should have the look of an uncirculated coin, including some luster, but just the slightest of wear on the high points, with minimal marks. Sometimes I call these coins "sliders." Now again, someone else might have a different criteria for AU58 - some want to see a lot of luster, maybe even some red in a copper coin, a crisp strike, giving less weight to wear or the amount of marks on the coin.

### **Uncirculated Coins**

In my opinion, the uncirculated coins are the hardest to learn since you can't judge a coin by the detail remaining like you can on a circulated coin. For uncirculated coins, of course there can be no "wear" on the coin at all, but the marks, spots, luster, eye appeal, strike, toning, etc. all make a difference for each level between MS60 to MS70. For me, this is where subjectivity is even more varied since one person might give more weight in assigning a grade toward a coin with more luster than strike, or spots versus bag marks.

There's no rule or standard that says, for example, a coin with 4 minor bag marks and only 2 specks should be graded MS63, whereas a coin with only 2 bag marks and 1 speck should be MS64. Or a coin that has a ton of luster but weak feather tips should be called MS64 compared to a coin that has a super crisp strike but more subdued luster might be MS65. In my opinion, this is where subjectivity most often creates inconsistency in grading. And the location of the marks or spots will also affect how the coin is graded. The portrait and date are the focal points of a coin - meaning, those are points where your eye is drawn to first when looking at a coin. So, for instance, blemishes on the obverse portrait of a coin will affect a coin's grade more than if those flaws were near the rim, in the field, or on the reverse of a coin. But how much this affects the grade can be subjective - if the spot is dark or the mark is thick, will it affect the grade by 1 or 2 points? Or if there are several small spots or dings rather than one large one, how much will that affect the grade? Again, that opinion will be subjective based on the grader's personal preference.



## LEARNING TO GRADE

When new collectors ask me how to grade Indian or Lincoln cents, I try to show them the basics and also tell them to get one of the grading books, my favorite one being "Making the Grade" since it has some great color photos with highlights of the coin's high points for each series, as well as a brief description of most grades, both circulated and uncirculated. Another quality grading book, of course, is the "Official ANA Grading Standards."

Then I advise them to look at a lot of coins that are graded by someone they personally trust or respect. I also suggest that they examine a lot of coins that have been certified by the TPG services (PCGS and NGC being the most prominent). As a dealer, even though I don't necessarily agree with the consistency or accuracy of TPG's opinions, I tend to give TPG's a little more weight since they are the ones that I have to "please" in order to get coins certified for resale purposes. But as a collector, and what I advise all my customers, make sure you **BUY THE COIN, NOT THE HOLDER!**

There are several good articles on the internet that have excellent information on grading coins, including the history of grading and third party grading services, the grading scale (1-70), etc. Here are a few I found that might be worth reading:

<http://www.us-coin-values-advisor.com/grading-coins>.

[http://coins.about.com/od/coingrading/qt/coin\\_grading101.htm](http://coins.about.com/od/coingrading/qt/coin_grading101.htm)

<http://www.acoin.com/grading.htm>

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## *These Are a Few of My Favorite Things*

*By Charmy Harker*

(Photos are courtesy of Todd Pollock at BluccPhotos.com.)

*Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens  
Bright copper kettles and warm woolen mittens  
Brown paper packages tied up with strings  
These are a few of my favorite things.*

I recently heard this song by Julie Andrews from the Sound of Music and it got stuck in my head, then it also got me thinking, “What are a few of MY favorite things?” Well, of course, my Indian cent collection came to mind. I can’t think of anything else (besides my family and little kitty) that brings me more joy. So I thought I’d share a few of my favorite Indian cents from my personal collection. Many of those who know me know that I love toned copper, both Indian and Lincoln cents, and most of the

coins in my personal collection have, in my opinion, beautiful toning – blues, greens, silver, rose, magenta, etc. However, some of my most favorite coins have interesting and unique errors or varieties. And if they happen to also have pretty toning, all the better. This first favorite is one I recently acquired at auction and happens to have beautiful toning in addition to its amazing error.



### 1880 PCGS MS-65 BN Snow-1, Doubled Die Obverse, Off-Center Clashed Die Reverse

As Rick Snow stated when he wrote the auction description: “This is one of the most intriguing varieties known to collectors ir-

respective of denomination or type. There are clashmarks on the reverse from the obverse die, but instead of being emplaced in the corresponding area they are widely off center. Such is the position of the clashmarks, in fact, that the letters ICA in AMERICA and the surrounding denticles are clearly visible sweeping down through the reverse field between the right wreath and the shield to the letters NE in ONE. One theory as to the cause of this off-

center clash is a quick hardness test by the die maker. By smacking the soft die with another die, the impression left would show whether the die was soft enough to accept a digit punch.” I just love the beautifully toned double die off center die clash and am proud to have it in my collection.





1886 Type 1 NGC MS65 RB Clamshell Lamination

This is a coin I bought several years ago from a so-called vest pocket dealer at the Long Beach show. It was in a 2x2 cardboard flip at the time and I didn't notice the clamshell planchet until I removed it from the holder. Wow, what a nice surprise on a really high quality better date Indian cent! I've kept it raw until re-

cently when NGC introduced their new EdgeView holders where the rim is still visible inside the holder. It was authenticated as a "Clamshell Lamination" and I was even more please when NGC again agreed with my grade of MS65 RB!



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1887 NGC MS63 RB Obverse Struck Thru

This is another coin I found raw on Ebay and sent it in for grading at NGC. I initially had thought the foreign material had to be a wire or possibly a hair because I thought the object that was struck thru had to be something strong or hard in order to sustain the pressure of the powerful metal dies pressing onto the planch-

et. So I posted these photos on some message boards to solicit ideas as to what had been left on the die that was struck thru, and the consensus was that it was probably a piece of thread left over from a cleaning cloth used to wipe the dies. Interesting piece, don't you think?



1864-L AU Reeded Edge

This is another piece that I found on Ebay about 10+ years ago (yes, I love to peruse Ebay and have been lucky to find some very unique items). In addition to it being a nice quality better date 1864-L, I just thought this coin was so unique and couldn't imagine at the time how it got the reeded rim. Also, if you look close at one of the photos, you'll see a nice reverse die break that goes from the wreath at about 10:00 down and across the C and E in CENT. I again posted photos on the message boards and received

some very plausible explanations, including the following: "This edge can be accomplished with a simple knurling tool on a lathe". Smaller diameter sacrifice stock is placed on either side of the host coin, (like a sandwich) the knurling tool can then be applied to create the reduced diameter decorative edge design. Any gun manufacturer from the Civil War era on would be able to create an example as such.





Knurling is commonly done on a lathe in a machine shop. This coin was obviously done by hand by a skilled craftsman in the pre machine tool days. Very similar to the old “hand checkering” that gunsmiths do. Pure art and skilled hands.....and a dying skill at that with the age of modern CNC equipment. [The above] pic

is that of a knurling head that goes into a CNC or manual lathe, and is adjustable to fit the diameter of the workpiece.

Even though it is most likely man-made, I am crazy about this unique Indian cent and am pleased to be able to show it to others thanks to Todd’s great photos.



1861 NGC MS64 10% Curved Clip

I found this gorgeous error last year in another dealer’s case in Chicago. It was raw and just caught my eye because the dealer had all kinds of coins and but only a couple of Indian cents. I also recently sent this in to be graded and was happy that NGC agreed with my assessment of MS64. I think it is pretty rare to

find a high quality Civil War period cent with such a large error – obviously, someone must have noticed in way back then and removed it from circulation. There is also some die clashing evident in front of the portrait.





1873 PCGS MS64 RB Closed 3 Snow 2 Double Liberty

And here is a beautiful 1873 Snow 2 Double Liberty. This coin is extra special to me because, if any of you have read “The Penny Lady” article that was first published here in the Ledger several years ago (and is also posted on my website), you may recall that I mentioned an unc 1873 Closed 3 that I had won off Ebay for \$110. It was a beautiful coin, probably MS64 RB, and at that time I didn’t know much about the double Liberty. Right after the auction ended, I received an email from another Ebayer offering to buy it for an additional \$100. I told him I would have to wait until I had the coin in hand to see it for myself before I would sell it.

That email made me suspicious, so I decided to take a good close look at the coin when I got it to see why this guy was eager to pay so much more for it. So as soon as the coin arrived, I

pulled out my Flynn variety book (I didn’t have Rick’s books back then) and compared this coin to all the 1873 varieties, and, yes, I’m sure you guessed it, it was the double die variety – unfortunately, not the Type 1, but almost as good - it was the Type 2 variety with most of the letters in Liberty strongly doubled. Of course I hooted and yelped and was so excited that my family wondered what was going on. I can sincerely say that that was the moment my husband and kids finally understood the true value of a penny! Any way, a short time later, I took this coin to the Long Beach show and ended up selling it raw for \$2,000.

Well, fast forward many years later. I recently saw this 1873 S-2 on Rick’s website, and I’d swear it was the same coin I sold all those years ago. So, of course, I just had to have it - and now I do, and this is a photo of my old/new 1873 S-2!





1877 NGC MS65 RB

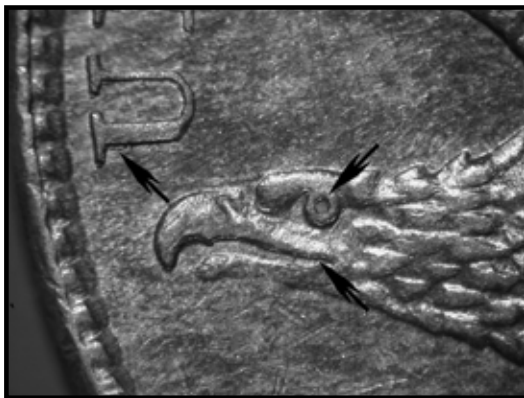
I've saved the best for last! What can I say.... I have looked for many years to find a pretty toned high-end 1877 Indian cent, and until now the only one I found was one Rick had a couple years ago, except that it was MS66 RB and very out of my price range (it's the same one Rick had imaged onto his mouse pads). Then, at the ANA, I saw this in Rick's case and immediately fell in love

with it. I even told Rick, "Now that's a Charmy coin!" So I went back to my table and began figuring out how I can acquire this gorgeous piece. So with a little finagling and a little dickering and some kind concessions from Rick, this fantastic key date is now in my collection!

# Sometining New

By Richard Snow

# 1857



*S23 1857, Doubled die obverse.*

## S23 1857, Doubled die obverse. 13-O-I

*Obv. 23: (C) Minute doubling visible on the eagle's eye and mouth. Diagonal die file marks under the date.*

*Rev. AC: Thin denticles at 3:00.*

*Attributed to: Scott Hammond*

A rather minor doubled die. It may not be visible on coins graded below AU {63}



*S23 1857, Date area.*

# 1865 Plain 5



*S13 1865 Plain 5, 1/1 (e).*

## S13 1865 Plain 5, 1/1 (e).

*Obv. 16 (LE) Repunching is visible to the right of the upright of the 1. Extra outlines are visible on all letters except STATE. Extra outlines on all of the portrait except by the forehead.*

*Rev. AF: Olive leaf and shield points well away from denticles.*

*Attributed to: John Miller*

Early die state pieces show a date position line from the tip of the U to the top of the 1. {63RB, 20}



*S14 1865 Plain 5, 8/8 (s).*

## S14 1865 Plain 5, 8/8 (s).

*Obv. 17 (B) Bold repunching on the base of the 8. Extra outlines on all letter of the legend as well as the portrait. Die chip on the cheek.*

*Rev. AG: Olive leaf and shield points well away from denticles. Dir crack from the rim to the wreath at 9:30.*

*Attributed to: Elsbeth Parma*

This is a very bold repunched date. As it was newly discovered, it may be scarce. {64RB}



# 1870



**S44 1870, Many digits in the denticles.**

## **S44 1870, Many digits in the denticles.**

### **Doubled die rev. 1-R-III & V.**

**Obv. 9: (B)** Multiple digits in denticles below the date. Die scratch from the rim at 7:00 through NI. Die stage A: No die cracks.

**Rev T3-A:** Very strong doubling on ONE CENT, most visible on CE, left wreath, and upper half of left side of wreath. Heavy clash mark from the C in CENT to the wreath knot.

*Attributed to: David Poliquin*

The obverse is one of the top varieties of the date. The reverse is also one of the top varieties of the date. Together, this is a very rare and important discovery.

Same obverse as S8. Same reverse as S14. {20}



**S44 1870, Doubled die rev. 1-R-III & V.**

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## ***Treasurer's Report***

### ***The Fly-In Club Welcomes Our Newest Members***

As an ongoing feature, we'd like to welcome our new members:

<b>Member</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
Robert W	Indiana	Rick Snow
Stuart F	Indiana	none
Paul P	Texas	Rick Snow
Kevin M	Georgia	Dave Noble
Ken F	Maryland	none
Gary L	Connecticut	web
Dave W	Colorado	Rick Snow
Alan G	California	Rick Snow
Andy L	New York	Rick Snow
Jeff W	Arizona	Charmy Harker & Rick Snow
George C	New Jersey	none
Philip C	Ohio	none
Thomas T	Iowa	none
Tom C	Massachusetts	Charmy Harker
Charles H	California	none
Dan C	California	Rick Snow & others
Raymond H	Connecticut	none
Mike E	Georgia	Rick Snow
Chris B	New Jersey	Rick Snow
TJ S.	Virginia	Rick Snow
Dale W	Montana	none
Wayne M	Georgia	Rick Snow

Thank you for joining us. If you haven't already done so, please check out our web site and online talk forum at [www.fly-inclub.org](http://www.fly-inclub.org). If you have any questions or comments about the club, please contact me, Vern Sebby at PO Box 559, Sandwich, Illinois, 60548, or email, [melva6906@indianvalley.com](mailto:melva6906@indianvalley.com).

## **Address Change**

Please be advised that we've changed our address to:

**Fly-In Club  
P.O. Box 559  
Sandwich, Illinois 60548**

The LaFox address was close to my office, but as I've retired and it is now 30 miles away, so we've made the change.

State Representatives, please change our literature accordingly. Thanks....  
Vern Sebby, Treasurer

